

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-01 ICA-20 AID-05 EB-08 AF-10 ARA-14  
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4880

UNCLAS ROME 14814

FODAG

FOR PAUL BYRNES, IO/AGR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, AORG

SUBJ: GENEVA GROUP ROME MEETING, AUGUST 10

PASS USDA FOR KRIESBERG

REF: A. ROME 14732, B. ROME 14731

1. PECKHAM, UK CO-CHAIRMAN OF GENEVA GROUP ROME (GGR) HAS CIRCULATED FOR COMMENTS DRAFT NOTE ON AUGUST 10 MEETING.
2. IN NOTE, PECKHAM HAS INCORPORATED CERTAIN POINTS THAT, WHILE NOT ACTUALLY DISCUSSED, MIGHT BE IMPLIED FROM DISCUSSION. HE DID THIS IN ORDER TO FOCUS ATTENTION OF GROUP AT SEPTEMBER 7 MEETING ON CERTAIN ASPECTS WHICH NEED TO BE DISCUSSED IN MORE DETAIL. RELEVANT PARTS ARE AS FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT.
3. IT WAS FELT TO BE TOO EARLY TO DECIDE WHETHER A CONSENSUS WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN THIS MATTER AND A FURTHER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 7 FOR THIS PURPOSE. IN THE MEANTIME THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF AGREEMENT WITHIN THE GROUP WOULD APPEAR:

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- (A) THAT ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL, WHETHER AS GROUP OR OTHERWISE, SHOULD EMPHASIZE SERIOUS FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES OF MANY MEMBER COUNTRIES;
- (B) THAT IS WAS ESSENTIAL FOR FAO IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES TO ENSURE THAT ITS PROGRAM UNDER REGULAR BUDGET WAS STRICTLY LIMITED: MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WOULD WISH TO BE SATISFIED OVERPROVISION PROPOSED FOR VARIOUS INDIVIDUAL ITEMS, PARTICULARLY

THOSE FOR FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM;

(C) THERE WOULD BE OVERALL GREATEST DIFFICULTY FOR MANY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO AGREE TO ANY GROWTH IN REGULAR BUDGET, ALTHOUGH NUMBER WERE WILLING TO CONTINUE TO MAKE EXTRA-BUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH TRUST FUNDS AND SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS;

(D) NEVERTHELESS, GROUP AS WHOLE RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE, WITHIN OVERALL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES, OF AGRICULTURE AND FOR THAT REASON A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES MIGHT BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT ANNUAL RATE OF GROWTH IN REAL TERMS OF 2 PERCENT IF ADEQUATE CASE FOR THIS MADE OUT IN PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL.

4. TACTICS.

(A) NO APPROACH TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL OR HIS OFFICIALS BEFORE QUESTION OF CONSENSUS CONSIDERED ON SEPTEMBER 7.

(B) NO LOBBYING OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BEFORE THEN.

(C) GROUP TO DECIDE ITS BASIC TACTICS ON SEPTEMBER 7; IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT INSTRUCTIONS ALLOW FOR SOME FLEXIBILITY IF A CONSENSUS IS TO BE REACHED BOTH ON TACTICS AND MATTER OF SUBSTANCE. END TEXT.

5. CONCERNING POSITIONS STATED BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, PECKHAM HAS TAKEN CERTAIN "LICENSE" IN INTERPRETING POSITIONS EXPRESSED BY MEMBER GOVERNMENT REPS IN ORDER TO TRY TO DRAW OUT MORE CLEARLY THESE POSITIONS. IN GENERAL, INTERPRETATIONS DO NOT VARY SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THOSE CONTAINED REFTEL A EXCEPT IN UNCLASSIFIED

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FEW CASES:

(A) FOR JAPAN, PECKHAM DID NOT INCLUDE STATEMENT THAT TOKYO WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT TWO PERCENT AS FINAL FIGURE OR THEIR EMPHASIS THAT WE SHOULD NOT START OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH DG SAOUMA FROM TWO PERCENT.

(B) CONCERNING ITALY, HE HAS INTERPRETED ITALIAN POSITION (DESPITE WHAT ITALIAN REP SAID) TO MEAN ONE PERCENT REAL GROWTH, THOUGH PROBABLY TEND TOWARD ZERO GROWTH.

(C) CONCERNING FRANCE, PECKHAM HAS LEFT OUT POINT MADE BY FRENCH REP THAT THEY WERE OPPOSED IN PRINCIPLE TO SETTING OF ANY PERCENT INCREASE.

(D) CONCERNING BELGIUM, HIS COMMENT IMPLIES MORE AGREEMENT THAN WAS ACTUALLY STATED. BELGIANS ARE TAKING FURTHER LOOK AT THEIR POSITION. (PECKHAM DID VOLUNTEER THAT HE DID NOT SEE HOW THERE COULD BE ANY REAL COORDINATION IN EC ON VIEWS EXPRESSED BY EC MEMBERS OF GG. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THEY WILL BE WILLING CHANGE POSITIONS.)

6. PECKHAM INDICATED HE WAS CIRCULATING HIS PAPER, IN DRAFT, IN ORDER TO TRY AND DRAW OUT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT AT AUGUST 10 MEETING AS TO: (A) WHAT SHOULD BE FOCUS OF SEPTEMBER 7 MEETING AND (B) WHAT ARE ACTUAL PRELIMINARY POSITIONS OF

MEMBER GOVERNMENTS.

7. FODAG WILL SUBMIT TO WASHINGTON FINAL VERSION OF  
PECKHAM'S UMMARY WHEN AVAILABLE.

8. FODAG WOULD DRAW ATTENTION TO TWO POINTS THAT WILL BE  
DISCUSSED AT SEPTEMBER 7 MEETING:

(A) ON TACTICS, SHOULD GROUP DISCUSS BUDGET LEVEL WITH DG  
AS GROUP OR, AS ADVOCATED BY AUSTRALIA (REF A), ON BASIS  
OF INDIVIDUAL REPS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES?

(B) HOW FAR SHOULD GGR GO TOWARD TRYING TO FORCE FAO TO  
JUSTIFY INDIVIDUAL INCREASES CONTAINED IN 1980/81 BUDGET, AS  
OPPOSED TO SUGGESTION OF PERCENTAGE INCREASE AS BASED ON  
BASE FIGURE, I.E., TWO PERCENT OF 210 MILLION DOLLARS?

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HOLMES

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## Message Attributes

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